



Pot Luck Supper

The St. Thomas Apostle Home School Association is sponsoring a pot luck supper at the school hall on Friday, Feb. 18, beginning at 6 p.m. Both parents and children are welcome. Above, Michael Grisdale works on an announcement poster while Mary, Christopher, and Paula Giordano, and David Cribbin look on. Michael Henry (right) of "the MIME workshop" will entertain. Ticket deadline is Feb. 14. Call Pauline Giordano, 544-4444, Clare Grisdale, 342-4528, or Cynthia Cribbin, 342-4301, for information.



AS I SEE IT
Pat Costa

"Roots," the story of a black family's rise from slavery to freedom, has earned the title of the most watched television event in the history of the medium.

What does it mean? Is there some social significance to the fact that so many whites stayed loyally with the series which ran on eight successive nights at prime time? Could it mean a new understanding between the white and black communities, an improvement in the relationship?

I put those questions to one of Rochester's most prominent and distinguished black men, Dr. George Simmons, who is chairman of the Department of Social and Humanistic Foundations of Education at the State University College at Brockport.

Dr. Simmons says he thinks the program which portrayed blacks as strong of spirit as well as physical structure, showed them to be courageous, often noble, hard-working, intelligent and dedicated to their families, will do little to alter the thinking of viewers.

Some viewers, he pointed out, saw it as pure entertainment, enjoying it as a good story and finding the violence an added reason for watching.

Others, he said, were hardened and cynical to the plight of the black man and will continue to be so after watching "Roots," insisting the mistreatment of blacks

at the hands of the whites was never as bad as depicted.

Then there are those, according to Simmons, whose consciences will be stricken — temporarily. As the memory of the series fades, they will retreat to former indifferent ways, much as they did when Martin Luther King was slain.

Added Dr. Simmons, it has always been the few whites who worked for the betterment of blacks and it will be those same people who will continue to fight for their advancement.

Did he not think that the simple fact that a network devoted that much time to showing a series which casts blacks as the heroes was an improvement in the national climate?

The Brockport professor termed it a "concession" on the part of ABC to show blacks in that light.

What kind of effect did the show have on black youngsters?

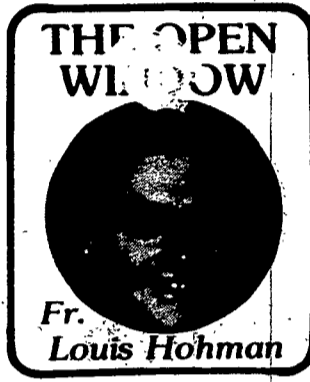
A good one, said Dr. Simmons, citing the advantages a black child might receive from that exposure, including example, inspiration, persistence, courage, etc.

What about young whites?

Noting that children and youth are more responsive, receptive to ideas than adults, he agreed that much good could come from the series if it were shown in schools and each segment followed by lecture and discussion.

White youngsters, Dr. Simmons said, are not hardened to the history of the black man as some of their parents are.

The conclusion, then, is that there is hope — hope through our children for this nation of blacks and whites.



THE OPEN WINDOW
Fr. Louis Hohman

Not so long ago I received a couple of clippings from newspapers which were accompanied by a handwritten question "Where is your Pope?" I would like to take the time and the effort to respond to that particular presentation.

To Whom It May Concern: It is true that the Church very often seems to give a great deal of attention to the evil of abortion and very little attention to other kinds of killing which are taking place in the world. However I think it would be a rash judgment to assume that the Catholic Church does not care about the killings in Northern Ireland or is taking a partisan stance in that terrible struggle. The Church is just as concerned about the killings there as it is about the countless abortions that are taking place in our country. The Church is committed to the ideal that life comes from God, belongs to Him, and is sacred. Any interference with that on the part of human beings is immoral and therefore to be abhorred.

When you ask where is the Pope I am tempted to reply with another question "What do you think the Pope could do about that tragedy in Northern Ireland? Do you really think the IRA would pay attention to his recommendation to stop the fighting?" The fact is that the Pope is very definitely opposed to that terrible conflict and would do anything, I am sure, to bring it to a conclusion (that is, a just conclusion).

Mercy Sisters Plan Infirmary Campaign

Funds for new infirmary facilities for the Sisters of Mercy will be sought over the next three months.

Sister M. Judith Heberle, superior general, announced plans for organization of an appeal committee.

Sister Judith said the present infirmary quarters at the motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, will be replaced by renovation of the second floor of the McAuley Junior College structure which was added as a motherhouse wing in 1959. Renovation and added equipment costs have been estimated at \$325,000.

"Building costs for a new structure are prohibitive," Sister Judith said. "Location of infirmary facilities in the McAuley wing has been judged both feasible and economical. There also is sufficient space to provide for foreseeable future needs."

Thirty-five sisters, about 10 per cent of the community, are retired. Twelve receive round-the-clock nursing care. Sister Judith said infirmary space on the motherhouse second floor is limited and inadequate and that renovation of that floor has been judged inadvisable and too costly.

The Sisters of Mercy serve in 44 parishes as elementary teachers, pastoral assistants and religious education or liturgy coordinators. They operate Mercy High in Rochester and Notre Dame High in Elmira. They also serve on the faculty at Cardinal Mooney in Greece and at three colleges.

SAVING FUEL

With a view to saving fuel, Immaculate Conception parish has adopted a new Sunday schedule for February and March. Mass will be celebrated at 8 and 11 a.m., instead of at 7, 10 and 12:15.

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The Sisters of Mercy staff St. James Mercy Hospital and its school of nursing in Hornell and for the last three years have operated Andrew Center in Rochester, a foster home for children.

Still others work in a variety of social and inner city related services and five are in the foreign missions in Santiago, Chile.

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LEUKEMIA BENEFIT

The relatives of a young leukemia patient and their friends are sponsoring a dinner-dance to raise money for the Leukemia Society of America. Proceeds will be returned here for local research projects, according to Linda Knapp of Rellim Boulevard, secretary to the committee. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11 at the Mapledale Party House.

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